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Viewing cable 06QUITO471, GOE FIRES UPON, DISMANTLES FARC BORDER CAMP

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06QUITO471**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06QUITO471	2006-02-22 23:04	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Quito

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elspectador.com/wikileaks>

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OO RUEHWEB

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3697
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RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE 0348
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ MAR 9669
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE 3566
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE 1580
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C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 000471

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/06/2014

TAGS: [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [SNAR](#) [PTER](#) [EC](#) [CO](#)

SUBJECT: GOE FIRES UPON, DISMANTLES FARC BORDER CAMP

Classified By: PolOffJarahnHillsman, Reasons 1.4 (b&d)

¶11. (C) Summary: Ecuadorian military units on February 18 encountered and dismantled a FARC encampment in the northern border province of Sucumbios. Two FARC trainees were captured during the raid, along with weapons, ammunition, and other logistical support items. In the wake of the find, Minister of Defense OswaldoJarrin reaffirmed Ecuadorian military commitment to safeguard national sovereignty and prevent FARC infiltration or incursion of any kind. The GOE is clearly eager to answer GOC criticism that the FARC is present and unmolested in Ecuadorian territory. End Summary.

FARC Training Camp Dismantled

¶12. (U) Ecuadorian military units on February 18 briefly exchanged fire (no casualties) with and destroyed a FARC encampment in Santa Rosa, Sucumbios province. The base, located near the site of the January 28 Colombian military incursion, comprised a series of wooden structures with sleeping quarters, kitchens, showers, and some furnishings. GOE forces also found four rifles, hand grenades, explosives, detonators, food, radios, a generator, oxygen tanks, and medication.

FARC Trainees Captured

¶13. (U) Two FARC trainees captured during the raid told Ecuadorian authorities that they were sent to Ecuador to study guerrilla philosophy, armed conflict, the story of Che Guevara, and the principles of the Bolivarian Movement. They are currently being held by Ecuadorian law enforcement authorities in Quito. In a separate operation, seven indigenousCofan Ecuadorian nationals suspected of collaborating with the FARC were also detained and later released by military units in la BarrancaBermeja, Sucumbios.

MOD Vows to Protect Sovereignty

¶14. (U) Minister of Defense OswaldoJarrin on February 20 confirmed the incident had occurred, adding that GOE considers illegal armed elements & a threat to national sovereignty that would be neutralized with force.⁸ Jarrin said that GOE operations are not conducted jointly with the Colombian military. The MOD again rejected the notion, promoted recently by President Uribe, that illegal armed groups stage attacks against Colombian military units from Ecuador.

Comment

¶15. (C) NAS-purchased vehicles were used by the 19th jungle Brigade to move the patrol units into the area and MILGRP donated rations were consumed by soldiers on patrol. USG support for Ecuadorian military, especially at the operational level, is beginning to produce desired outcomes in the border region. While USG resources remain a key ingredient, this uncharacteristically aggressive move was probably motivated by the GOE's desire to demonstrate unequivocal rejection of a FARC presence, in the face of criticism from Colombia.

BROWN

=====CABLE ENDS=====